

# MAINE MOOSE HUNTER'S GUIDE



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and  
Wildlife  
*Caring for Maine's Outdoor  
Future*

DIFW website:  
[mefishwildlife.com](http://mefishwildlife.com)

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**Other documents of interest for the moose hunt can be found at:**

[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses\\_permits/lotteries/moose/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses_permits/lotteries/moose/index.htm)

- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS MAPS
- MOOSE REGISTRATION STATIONS
- MOOSE MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIF&W) has developed the Maine Moose Hunter's Guide to:

1. increase your awareness of safe, ethical, and responsible behavior necessary when moose hunting;
2. expand your knowledge of moose and moose hunting in Maine;
3. improve your hunting skills; and
4. answer many questions you may have.

# GENERAL HUNTING LAWS

Some of the general hunting laws you should be aware of while moose hunting are summarized below. See the current Maine hunting law booklet for full details.

## IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Hunt on Sunday or at night.
- Hunt moose over bait similar to the prohibitions in effect for hunting deer over bait.
- Shoot from a public paved way (any road with a bituminous surface) or within 10 feet of the edge of the pavement, or within the right-of-way of any controlled access highway. It is also unlawful to shoot over a paved way.
- Discharge a firearm or crossbow, or cause a projectile to pass as a result of that discharge within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling, including barns, without permission of the owner.
- Possess a firearm in a motor vehicle on Sunday on an unpaved road in an unorganized township (most of the townships in the moose hunting area are unorganized) unless the firearm is carried securely and completely wrapped in a case or in at least two separate pieces so that it cannot be fired unless the pieces are put together (a clip, magazine, or cylinder is not considered a piece of the firearm).
- Use artificial lights at night to illuminate wildlife.
- **Shoot from a motor vehicle or motorboat or possess a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle.** It is unlawful to shoot while in or on a motor vehicle or motorboat or have a loaded firearm while in or on a motor vehicle, trailer, or other type of vehicle being hauled by a motor vehicle except as specifically allowed. (Note: A loaded clip may be carried in a motor vehicle, but it must not be inserted in, or attached to, a firearm; a muzzleloading firearm is considered to be loaded ONLY if charged with powder, projectile and a primed ignition device or mechanism.)
  - a. Persons who hold a valid Maine permit to carry a concealed weapon may carry a loaded pistol or revolver in a motor vehicle.
  - b. Paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may shoot from motor vehicles that are not in motion.
  - c. Migratory waterfowl may be hunted from a motorboat in accordance with federal regulations.
  - d. A person may shoot from a motorboat if that boat is not being propelled by the motor.
- If you are under 16 years of age, hunt unless in the presence of a parent or guardian or another person who is at least 18 years of age. If other than a parent or guardian, that person must possess a Maine hunting license or proof of a hunter safety course.
- Purchase an apprenticeship hunter license to meet the licensing requirements for using a moose permit.
- Sell a subpermittee or alternate subpermittee designation on a moose permit
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- Hunt with automatic firearms (continue to fire as long as trigger is held back).
- Hunt with auto-loading firearm with a magazine that will hold more than five cartridges.
- Interfere with anyone who is hunting legally, or disturb wild animals with the intent to interfere with the hunting of them.
- Use an aircraft, while on the ground or airborne, to aid or assist in hunting big game.
- Park a motor vehicle or allow a motor vehicle under that person's control to remain parked in a private drive or private way in a manner that blocks or interferes with the free passage of other vehicles without the permission of the owner of that private drive or way.

## November Moose Hunt:

**In WMDs 1-4 and 19, all November antlerless moose hunters who harvest a female moose must present the ovaries and/or reproductive tract at the first open**

registration station. The milk sack (udder) shall be left attached to the carcass.  
View how to collect the ovaries here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5lp87z5Cd0&feature=youtube>

#### CAUTION:

- It is also important for all Maine moose hunters to be aware of the regulation requiring that the **permittee and subpermittee** physically be in the presence of each other while hunting, without the aid of visual or audio enhancement devices. The permittee may hunt alone, but if the permittee and subpermittee hunt together they must be in contact. The subpermittee may not hunt alone.
- In Maine, it is common for moose to travel in groups of two or more animals. As a participant in the Maine moose hunt, it is critical that you recognize your responsibility to be sure of your target. **It is extremely important that before you shoot at a moose, you are certain of your target and beyond to ensure that you do not inadvertently shoot a second moose.** Shooting or killing more than one moose, even accidentally, may expose a person to fines, jail time, forfeiture of firearms, and loss of hunting privileges.

## MOOSE HUNTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The following are summaries of laws and regulations which specifically apply to moose hunting. You must also comply with all other applicable laws of Title 12, Maine Revised Statutes, which are summarized following this section and detailed in the Maine hunting law booklet.

**WHO MAY HUNT:** Only holders of valid moose hunting permits and their designated subpermittee may hunt moose. The permittee must possess the permit at all times while hunting. Hunters may hunt moose with bow and arrow if they possess an archery license, or they may hunt moose with bow and arrow or firearm if they possess a big game hunting license. Hunters may use a crossbow if the possess either a big game hunting license or an archery license, and a crossbow permit. The permittee may hunt alone, but the subpermittee must always be in the presence of the permittee while hunting; that presence must be unaided by visual or audio enhancement devices, including binoculars and citizens band radios. (Other individuals may be in the hunting party, but only permittees and subpermittees may hunt or kill a moose.) A person may assist in a hunt without a license or permit for that activity as long as that person does not carry hunting equipment (firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow).

**NOTE:** The Saturday preceding the first day of the November Season for WMDs 15, 16, 23, 25, and 26 is open for the hunting of moose by **Maine residents only**. If a Maine resident permittee has a nonresident subpermittee, the subpermittee may accompany the permittee on Maine residents only day, but the nonresident subpermittee may not hunt on Maine residents only day.

**Hunters must hunt during the assigned season printed on their permit.**

**LEGAL HOURS:** The legal hunting hours for moose shall be ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.

**SWAPPING MOOSE HUNTING DISTRICTS:** Moose permit winners are allowed to swap their moose permit with another moose permit winner. **Only one swap is allowed, and both permits must be paid for before the swap can be completed. The swap deadline date will be in your notification letter.**

Moose permit winners who wish to swap their permit with another moose permit winner will need to do all their own work to identify and contact potential permit winners to set up a swap. If you are

interested in registering or finding someone who wants to swap moose permits, please visit [moosepermit.com](http://moosepermit.com) or [mooseswap.com](http://mooseswap.com)

You can also purchase a listing of moose permit winners from InforME at [informe.org/moose](http://informe.org/moose).

Once you find someone to swap your moose permit with, you must send a written letter (one letter only signed by both permittees) to: Moose Permit Swap, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 284 State Street, 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333. The fee to swap permits is \$7.00 (one check for \$7.00 covers both of you).

The letter must include your name, permit number, permit type, season, and WMD, as well as the name, permit number, permit type, season, and WMD of the person you are swapping. Remember, the letter must be signed by both permittees. The letter, as well as the \$7.00 fee permit swap fee, must be received by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife before the swap deadline date in your notification letter. Make checks payable to: "Treasurer, State of Maine". Please do not send cash.

**OPEN AREAS:** Hunters must hunt within their assigned Wildlife Management District (see map and descriptions) during their assigned season.

**CLOSED AREAS:** Several areas in the moose hunting district **may not** be hunted, including game sanctuaries, Indian territories, Baxter State Park (including parts usually open to hunting), and the restricted zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (prior to October 1). These areas are usually well marked and easily identified. See the Maine hunting law booklet for locations of game sanctuaries and the back of this guide for locations of Indian territories. Anyone wishing to hunt on Native American Territory should contact the appropriate Native American agency for further information.

**BAG LIMIT:** A **bull only permit holder** may shoot one bull moose (a "bull moose" means a moose with antlers longer in size than their ears). An **antlerless only permit holder** may shoot one antlerless moose. "Antlerless moose" means a moose without antlers or moose with antlers that are shorter in size than their ears. An **any-moose permit holder** may shoot one moose of either sex.

A moose may be shot by either the permittee or the subpermittee. **It is unlawful for any person to hunt moose after having killed or registered one during the open season of that calendar year.**

**HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING:** Anyone who hunts with a firearm or crossbow in a moose hunting district during the September and October moose season must wear one article of solid-colored hunter orange clothing which is visible from all sides and in good and serviceable condition. The one article can be a hunter orange hat. Exempt from hunter orange requirements are persons hunting waterfowl from a boat or blind or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys.

Persons hunting moose with a firearm or crossbow during the November moose season must wear **two** articles of hunter orange clothing. **One article must be a solid-colored hunter orange hat; the other must cover a major portion of the torso, such as a jacket, vest, coat or poncho and must be a minimum of 50% hunter orange in color (camouflage).**

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS:** It is illegal to hunt moose with .17 or .22 caliber rimfire firearms and shotguns using shot loads.

**BOW AND ARROW:** If hunting with an archery license only, the hunter cannot carry a firearm. If the moose hunter possesses a big game hunting license or both an archery license and a big game hunting license, he or she may shoot the moose with either weapon. If the moose hunter possesses an archery license and a small game-hunting license, the moose cannot be dispatched with the firearm.



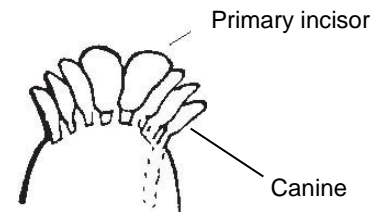
**ILLEGAL HUNTING METHODS:** It is illegal to intentionally pursue, drive, chase or otherwise frighten or cause a moose to move in the direction of anyone known to be waiting for the moose. **It is legal to use electronic calling devices and moose decoys while moose hunting.**

**MOOSE TO BE TAGGED:** A moose transportation tag, bearing the full name and address of the person who killed the moose, shall immediately be attached to the moose, following instructions on the tag. **Please make sure you keep your permit with you: it is needed for registration.**

**MOOSE TRANSPORTATION TO REGISTRATION STATION:** The entire animal including all edible meat except the viscera, lower legs, rib cage, head, and hide must be presented for registration. The animal may be dismembered for ease of transportation. Please consider quartering your moose. To prevent spoilage of meat it is absolutely critical to cool down the carcass as quickly as possible. **Also, it is much easier to cut the moose into several pieces to bring edible meat out of the woods, but leave the viscera, lower legs, rib cage, head, and hide in the woods. Evidence of gender must remain attached to at least one part of a dressed animal if it is dismembered and transported in several pieces.**

In order to transport a moose to a registration station:

- a. a moose tag must be securely attached **immediately** to the moose **once it is killed** until it is registered;
- b. the moose must be accompanied by the person who killed it;
- c. evidence of gender **must remain attached** to at least one part of a dressed animal if it is dismembered and transported in several pieces;
- d. the moose must remain open to view until it is registered. 'Open to view' means the animal is not concealed and can be readily observed in whole or in part from outside of the vehicle or trailer being used to transport the animal.
- e. a canine tooth or the lower jaw must also be presented at the time of registration **if** the head is not brought to the registration station. The canine tooth is the outside tooth in the row of teeth in the front of the lower jaw. To remove it cut along the root on either side of the tooth (see the dotted lines in the diagram) and pry it out. (Use a screwdriver to pry so you don't break your knife!). If you wish to have the canine tooth removed at the registration station, we recommend that the head be in a position that is easy to access for the registration station attendant.
- f. NOTE: If you harvest a female moose in WMDs 1-4 or 19 during the November season you must bring the reproductive tract including both ovaries (there are two) to the registration station upon presenting your moose.



**If you have a November Cow permit view how to collect the ovaries here:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5lp87z5Cd0&feature=youtu.be>

- g. leave the registration seal attached to the moose until it is processed and packaged for consumption.

**MOOSE PARTS LEFT IN THE WOODS:** It is much easier to leave the viscera, lower legs, rib cage, head, and hide in the woods. But, any moose parts that are not presented for registration **may not**

be placed where they are visible to a person traveling on a public or private way.

**MOOSE REGISTRATION:** The person who killed the moose must present it at the first open official moose registration station, where an agent will register it and attach a seal. A small fee is charged. No one other than the person who killed it may present a moose for registration. **Remember, evidence of gender must remain attached to at least one part of a dressed animal if it is dismembered and transported in several pieces. If you feel your moose is unfit for consumption because of disease or parasite infestation, ask a game warden or wildlife biologist about the condition before registering it. Once the moose is registered it becomes your property, and under no circumstances will an opportunity be given to take another moose.**

A person may not keep an unregistered moose at home or any place of storage (except at an official registration station or a game warden's office) for more than 18 hours. However, an unregistered moose may be left in the woods, provided the person notifies a game warden within 18 hours as to the location of the moose and the circumstances necessitating leaving the moose in the woods.

A person on a hunting trip in an unorganized township, and staying at a temporary place of lodging, may keep an unregistered harvested moose at the temporary place of lodging for no more than 7 days or until that person leaves the woods, whichever comes first.

**MOOSE TRANSPORTATION AFTER REGISTRATION:** After being registered, a moose may be transported by anyone.

**RADIO COLLARS AND EAR TAGS:** Any radio collars and ear tags found on harvested moose must be submitted to the agent when the animal is presented for registration.

**GIVING MOOSE AWAY-PARTS TO BE LABELED:** Except for permittees and subpermittees that have legally harvested and transported a moose, no one may possess any part or parts of a moose unless each separate part is plainly labeled with the name and address of the person who registered the moose and the year the animal was registered by that person.

**MOOSE HUNTER SURVEY:** The legislation that established the moose hunting season requires that ALL permit holders complete and return a survey to the Department within 10 days of the end of the moose season. The survey will be mailed to permittees prior to the season and it is recommended that you submit it to the agent at the registration station when you register your moose. (This is typically an index card asking you to report how many moose, deer and grouse you saw during your hunt; registration attendants may ask for this survey upon registration of your moose.)

**THREE-YEAR WAITING PERIOD:** Anyone receiving a Maine moose hunting permit must wait three years before being eligible to receive another permit. This requirement affects status as a permit holder only; it does not affect hunters who have been subpermittees, nor does it prohibit a hunter from being a subpermittee during the three-year wait.

**HUNTING OTHER SPECIES:** Moose hunters may hunt other game species for which the season is open. Anyone who hunts any species with a firearm in the moose hunting districts must still wear one article of hunter orange clothing. The only exception is waterfowl hunters who are hunting from a boat, blind, or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys.

## HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR MAINE STATE PARKS

1. All hunting and trapping shall take place in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine, the laws and rules of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and local ordinances.
2. A concealed handgun may be carried by qualifying individuals consistent with the provisions of 12 MRSA §1803, sub-§7. Open carry is not permitted under this provision.
3. The possession and/or use of firearms or weapons is prohibited in all State Parks between June 1 and Labor Day, except as stated in 2. above.
4. Hunting is not permitted at any time at State Historic Sites or Memorials, or at any of the properties listed below:

Andrews Beach State Park; that portion of Bradbury Mountain State Park west of State Route 9; Cobscook Bay State Park; Crescent Beach and Kettle Cove State Parks; Damariscotta Lake State Park; Ferry Beach State Park; Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park; Nickerson Lake State Park; Owls Head Light State Park; that portion of Quoddy Head State Park within 1,000 feet of the lighthouse; Reid State Park; Sebago Lake State Park; Shackford Head State Park; Two Lights State Park; and Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park.

5. Hunting is not permitted between June 1 and Labor Day at any of the properties listed below:  
  
Aroostook State Park; Birch Point Beach State Park; Bradbury Mountain State Park east of Route 9; Camden Hills State Park; Grafton Notch State Park; Mt. Kineo State Park; Lake St. George State Park; Lamoine State Park; Lily Bay State Park; Moose Point State Park; Mount Blue State Park; Moxie Falls State Park; Peaks-Kenny State Park; Popham Beach State Park; Quoddy Head State Park; Range Pond State Park; Rangeley Lake State Park, portion posted Roque Bluffs State Park; Swan Lake State Park; Warren Island State Park.
6. Allagash Wilderness Waterway- Hunting within the Restricted Zone of the waterway is prohibited between May 1 and September 30.
7. The discharge of any weapon is prohibited from or within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area or campsite, parking area, building, shelter, boat launch site, posted trail or other developed area.
8. Trails which are closed to hunting will be posted to that effect at access points. On trails posted as closed to hunting, loaded weapons are not permitted on the tread way and weapons may not be discharged within 300 feet of the trail.
9. Work areas and areas with significant public use may be temporarily posted as closed to hunting by park management in the interest of public safety.
10. Baiting of wildlife for the purpose of hunting is prohibited.
11. Trapping may take place only in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine, the laws and rules of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and local ordinances. Trapping on state parks or historic sites in organized townships requires the written permission of the Bureau.



For more information, contact the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands at 207-287-3061.

## NATIVE AMERICAN TERRITORY

As a result of the Maine Native American Claims Settlement Act of 1980, lands purchased by the Penobscot Native American Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe, within certain designated areas of the State, are classified as Native American Territory and are given “special” legal status. The Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe, within their respective Native American territories, have exclusive authority to regulate hunting and trapping. At the time of this publication, parcels of Native American Territory had been acquired within the following areas:

**PENOBSCOT NATION: Franklin County:** Alder Stream Twp. **Penobscot County:** T2R9 NWP (western portion), T3R9 NWP (eastern portion), T6R8 WELS (western portion) Argyle Twp. (northern portion) and T3R1 NBPP (northeastern portion). **Piscataquis County:** T6R8 NWP. The Penobscot Nation also has exclusive authority to regulate hunting and trapping in the Penobscot Reservation, consisting of all islands in the Penobscot River north of, and including, Native American Island, located near Old Town, Maine. Contact the Penobscot Nation, Department of Natural Resources for specific locations of Reservation islands.

**PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE: Franklin County:** Lowelltown, T1 R8 WBKP. **Hancock County:** T3&4 ND. **Washington County:** T5ND, BPP; T19 MD, Native American Twp., and Pleasant Point, Perry. **Penobscot County:** T3R9 NWP, T5R1 NBPP, TAR7 WELS. **Somerset County:** Holeb T6R1 NBKP, Prentiss, T4R4 NBKP, Hammond Twp., T3R4 NBKP, Alder Brook Twp., T3R3 NBKP, Pittston Academy Grant, T2R4 NBKP, Soldiertown Twp., T2R3 NBKP.

**Most of these areas will be conspicuously posted as Native American Territory.** Anyone wishing to hunt or trap on Native American Territory should contact the appropriate Native American agency for further information.

<b>PENOBSCOT NATIVE AMERICAN NATION</b>	<b>PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE</b>
Dept. of Natural Resources	Ranger Dept.
12 Wabanaki Way	Box 301
Indian Island, ME 04468	Princeton, ME 04668
Telephone: (207) 827-7776 ext 230	Telephone: (207) 796-2677

## **NORTH MAINE WOODS Inc. (NMW)**

is a private, non-profit organization that manages public use and access to 3.5 million acres of forestland located north and west of Baxter State Park. The region under NMW management is primarily privately owned by families, corporations, a conservation organization and about 5% is owned by the State of Maine.

- Wildlife Management Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are either totally or partially within the NMW management area. Over half of moose hunting permits are issued for districts in the NMW.

There are three major considerations when hunting in the NMW:

- **Entering and registration.** Every party visiting the NMW must stop and register each time they enter. Although NMW opens registration stations earlier and hires extra staff to register parties during moose hunting weeks, please expect delays just before dawn, especially during the first days of each moose hunting week. NMW charges Land Use and Camping Fees which are listed on the NMW website at [www.northmainewoods.org](http://www.northmainewoods.org).
- **Road safety.** Please understand that the roads in the NMW region are privately built to accommodate oversized logging trucks and forest workers. Treat logging trucks with the same respect you'd give to an ambulance or fire truck- pull over and allow them to pass when meeting them or when they approach from behind.
- **Camping.** NMW maintains over 350 campsites throughout the NMW region. During the October week of moose hunting some districts have more hunting parties than there are campsites. So it is best if you have time to scout out options before you arrive for your hunt. There are a number of sporting camps located throughout the region if you prefer not to camp out.

**For more information please refer to the North Maine Woods website at [www.northmainewoods.org](http://www.northmainewoods.org) or call 207-435-6213.**

## **CAMPING AT MAINE STATE PARKS**

### **AROOSTOOK STATE PARK**

While hunting in Northern Maine, consider Aroostook State Park for your accommodation needs. Aroostook State Park is right on the doorstep of some of the best moose hunting in Maine, and is open for camping through October 15<sup>th</sup>. Aroostook, located in WMD 6, offers a wide variety of hunting opportunities, from vast wooded forest to open farmland. After September 11<sup>th</sup>, campsites are first come, first serve and can accommodate campers or tents. Flush toilets, hot showers, and a kitchen shelter are available for your convenience. Each site has a fire ring and picnic table. There are no electric or water hook-ups. The city of Presque Isle is 5 miles north of the park. For more information, please call (207) 768-8341.

### **LILY BAY STATE PARK**

Located in WMD 9 on Moosehead Lake, Lily Bay State Park is open for camping through Columbus Day. Flush toilets, hot showers and its close proximity to Greenville make Lily Bay a perfect place to set up camp. After September 11<sup>th</sup>, campsites are first come, first serve and can accommodate campers or tents. Each site has a fire ring and picnic table. There are no electric or water hookups. For more information, please call (207) 695-2700.

## **PENOBSCOT RIVER CORRIDOR**

With more than 60 primitive campsites spanning the length of the Corridor from just outside of Millinocket to Canada Falls in WMD 9 and WMD 4, these year-round sites are ideal for providing a wilderness experience, without being completely cut off from civilization. For more information, please call (207) 592-1153 or (207) 941-4014.

## **ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY**

For a more traditional hunting experience, consider paddling the Waterway and camping on any of the more than 100 primitive sites scattered throughout WMDs 1, 2, 4 & 5. Open to camping year round

Please obtain the complete list of Allagash rules and regulations either by calling (207) 941-4014 or on the web: [http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/park\\_passes\\_fees\\_rules/aww\\_rules.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/park_passes_fees_rules/aww_rules.shtml)

## **HUNTER ETHICS**

Ethics are standards of behavior that are considered to be morally right, even without the benefit of legal sanction. Ethical behavior varies somewhat from place to place, depending on local traditions and practices. However, an overall standard of conduct must be established and observed by the hunting fraternity. While hunting is considered a respectable activity in Maine, it is frowned upon in many areas by an increasing number of people. The primary reason for this disapproval is the manner in which some irresponsible hunters conduct themselves in the field.

Instead of formulating a specific list of unacceptable behavior for the hunter, it may be of more value to discuss some desirable attitudes and criteria, which should be used by the ethical sportsman in determining behavior.

**A hunter's conduct is determined by his or her:**

- **Philosophy on harvesting game.** When you go hunting, what is your objective? Is it to get your limit as fast as possible? The ethical sportsman will look at hunting as an overall outdoor experience. There is pleasure to be gained without even firing a shot!
- **Preparation.** The ethical hunter is always prepared before venturing a field. From selecting the right firearm and knowing how to use it, to being ready for an emergency situation, the sportsman is ready for the expected...and the unexpected.
- **Commitment to the sport of hunting above any personal accomplishments.** The ethical hunter always puts the survival of the sport first. Whatever is best for the image of the sport must take priority, even if it means passing up a trophy shot or not taking the limit when you know the population is down. Remember, you are always being watched by your son or daughter, hunting companions, landowners and even strangers. Your behavior will reflect back on you...and on your sport.
- **Use of traditional skills and methods of fair chase.** The sportsman will want to match wits with the game hunted. Challenge yourself. Selfish and unethical actions

degrade the hunter and the sport.

- **Regard for the feelings of others.** Always consider other people, especially landowners and non-hunters. Hunt safely. Ensure that your conduct is not offensive. Be prepared to justify your actions. Many people don't appreciate a sign blown full of holes, a messy campsite, or a dead animal on display on your vehicle or at your home or camp.
- **Willingness to obey the unwritten laws.** There are a lot of situations in hunting that are technically legal, but shouldn't be done anyway, for both ethical and safety reasons. It's not illegal to stalk a calling turkey, or to shoot a turkey that has responded to another hunter's calling. It's not illegal, but it's not right, and it can be dangerous.
- **Attitude toward wildlife.** The ethical hunter must respect the game being hunted, as well as other wildlife. Part of this respect includes not harvesting more than the limit, not harvesting animals not wanted for a specific purpose, and having the proper size firearm and skill to ensure a clean, one shot kill.
- **Respect for the law.** The laws are there to protect people and to protect wildlife. Even if you don't agree with all of them, the ethical hunter obeys all the laws all the time, and he/she reports those who don't. Remember, it's everyone's resource.

## ATTENTION MAINE MOOSE HUNTERS!

Moose hunting in Maine is exciting and unmatched anywhere. However, along with this great hunting opportunity comes the responsibility for enhanced sportsman ethics due to unique hunting situations and special hunting regulations.

- The majority of moose hunting in Maine takes place within the industrial timberlands of the state. Most of this hunting territory is somewhat remote and privately owned. A major portion of this area is crisscrossed with private logging roads that are generally open for public use. Be alert for log trucks.

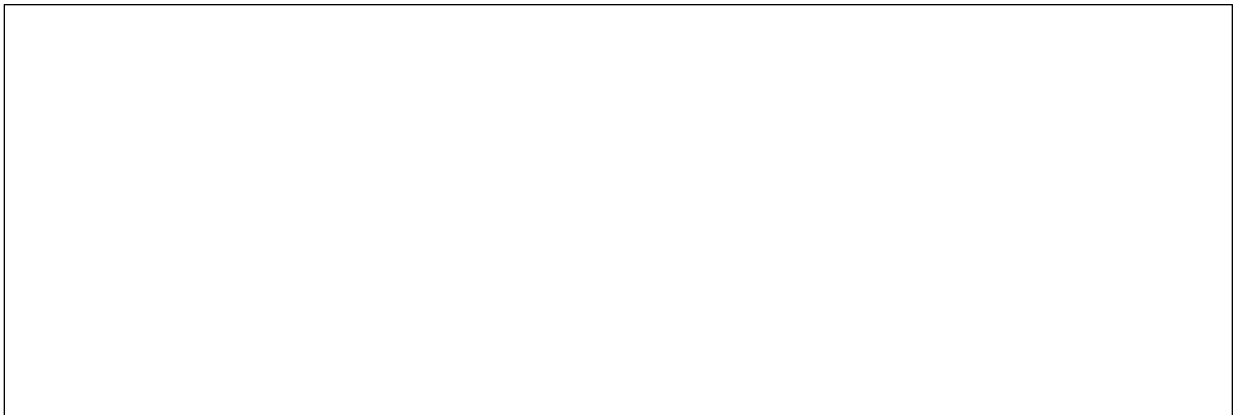
**Treat logging trucks with the same respect you'd give to an ambulance or fire truck- pull over and allow them to pass when meeting them or when they approach from behind.** They are very large, hard to maneuver and stop, and **ALWAYS** have the right-of-way. If you stop your vehicle for any reason, pull well off the road. Do not park where your vehicle will interfere with log hauling and do not hunt near active timber harvesting operations.



- **Hunting in southern Maine is very different from hunting in the north. Success will likely be low, especially for hunters not from the immediate area who do not**

**use a guide. It may also be more difficult to remove moose from private land in southern Maine, and removing moose could damage private land.**

- **Support Public Access, Sustain Maine's Outdoor Traditions, Become an Outdoor Partner!**
- Most of Maine's hunting occurs on private property. Obtain landowner permission before you hunt and always remember that you are a steward of the land. Treat the property of others as if it was yours, to help ensure future access.
- Most landowners prohibit ATVs and other "off-road" vehicles on their lands and roads. It will be crucial to plan on how you will move your moose from the woods to the road. In many cases, field dressing and butchering may be your best option. Where removal of an entire carcass is desired, plan ahead and obtain landowner permission to access a downed moose with an ATV or vehicle without damaging property. **ATVs are not allowed within the North Maine Woods.**
- When you park your vehicle to hunt, pull well off the road and **do not** block side roads.
- To ensure a quality hunting experience, keep some distance between you and other moose hunters and especially, between you and the non-hunting public. Don't hunt along well- traveled roads or near camps, recreation areas, or popular moose-watching sites.
- **It is absolutely essential that you properly field dress your moose immediately after the kill and take every precaution to avoid meat spoilage.** It is likely during the September and October seasons that you will encounter warm temperatures. You must properly dress and ventilate the moose to prevent spoilage. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are prepared for warm weather and that you are able to take every precaution to prevent meat from spoiling.



## **PLANNING YOUR MOOSE HUNT**

You are about to experience what many consider to be a once in a lifetime experience – moose hunting in Maine! As a permittee you are guaranteed the opportunity to hunt Maine's largest mammal. You are not guaranteed a successful hunt, a mature “trophy” bull, or quality meat. Preseason planning for your moose hunt may be the most important part of your hunt. Unless you live within the moose hunting district where you will hunt, an extensive amount of planning is required to make your moose hunt successful and, most importantly, enjoyable.

At one time, locating a moose was as easy as driving the roads and scouting clear-cuts. As the numbers of moose permits have increased over the years, traffic on the network of access roads has doubled. Moose have become warier and are less likely to be found standing in the open waiting for the opportunistic hunter. In addition, the number of roadside clear cuts with 5-15 year old growth has decreased. This has resulted in limited visibility for roadside hunters.

One method for avoiding crowds and increasing the odds in your favor is to hunt moose off the beaten path. Hunting moose in this fashion is not much different from hunting white-tailed deer. Many of the same techniques apply; with one exception - you may find yourself with an animal on the ground that weighs nearly 1,000 pounds. To do a traditional hunt successfully, you will need to plan your hunt carefully. More than likely, you will not be able to drive to where the animal falls. This will require that you have the proper equipment with you to field butcher your animal, pack it out, and transport it to a tagging station.

The majority of moose hunting in Maine occurs within the industrial timberlands of the state and is somewhat remote. Make sure to bring along sufficient maps of your hunting area and extra fuel and additional spare tires for your vehicles and trailers.

It is important to take time prior to your hunt to scout your district and find areas moose frequent in search of food, water and bedding. Places to look include 5-15 year old clear cuts. These are favorite spots for browsing moose. In the fall they are often found in areas where poplars grow. Do not exclude high terrain where big bulls can often be found during the warmer parts of the day. Older, over-grown clear cuts still offer good food and bedding areas for moose. Even after the rut, many bulls are still on the move looking for cows. If you put your time in scouting a week before the hunt, your chance of success will improve. Remember that moose do not like the heat of the day and are more likely to be on the move in the late afternoon and early morning.

For additional assistance in planning your moose hunt or for lodging opportunities, you may want to visit the following web sites:

Maine Professional Guides Association - <http://www.maine-guides.org/>

Maine Sporting Camp Association - <http://www.mainesportingcamps.com/explore.html>

Maine Office of Tourism - <http://www.visitmaine.com/where-to-stay/hotels-motels/>

## **MOOSE HUNTING TECHNIQUES**

Moose hunting in Maine is a rare opportunity, so consider making your hunt a traditional hunt off the beaten path!

Maine has one of the largest moose populations in the lower 48 states, and they live in areas



interspersed with miles of logging roads. Because it is easy to cover many miles along the roads while searching for moose, many hunters may miss the experience of a more traditional hunt. A law change allowing hunters to leave more moose parts in the woods makes it much easier to hunt away from the road.

There are many different ways to hunt backcountry moose. With miles of shoreline along lakes and ponds, rivers, and streams throughout the moose hunting districts, **water hunts** via a canoe can be especially successful, allowing you to slide up quietly on an unsuspecting moose. Floating, when used in conjunction with calling, can be most effective, allowing you to cover greater ground and provide for a wonderful hunting experience. When hunting near water, alternate calling and pouring water to simulate a moose walking and feeding in the water. Keep in mind that shooting a moose in the water can cause enormous difficulties. Some will sink, and all are hard to get ashore.

**Walking and stalking** is another effective method. Once you have located holding areas for moose with your scouting, try to find old logging roads or jeep trails that are no longer traveled. The Maine Atlas and Gazetteer by DeLorme will often help in locating these older roads. These make ideal paths for stalking. Slowly walk the road, stopping every so often to call, wait 15 minutes and then continue your walk. When hunting with a call, give the moose plenty of time to respond; often they will travel over a mile to investigate the call, sometimes without making a sound.

If you have found a prime area that moose frequently visit, you may consider building a **blind** or a series of blinds over a wide area. You may want to build a morning blind and an afternoon blind. There are plenty of downed trees and brush available to construct a suitable blind. Pick out a good spot, allowing for good visibility, comfort and quiet sitting. Calling is optional, but can be very effective. Attracting scents such as a cow in heat and bull urine, scent sticks, and scented gels can help draw animals within range of your blind. These work especially well if applied the night before you plan to sit.

Hunting from a **tree stand** provides an added advantage over a blind by increasing your visibility and getting your scent off the ground. Again, calling is effective, but sitting quietly works well if you're hunting an active trail. Remember to refresh yourself on the laws applying to the use of tree stands.

## MOOSE CALLS

During the rut, both cow and bull moose respond to a variety of calls. Cows will respond to cow calls, looking for companions, as will bulls looking to mate. If you plan to call, you first need to select a call and practice. It is especially effective to practice on real moose during your pre-scouting.

- First, consider using one of many **commercially produced calls**. These calls are well designed and have been extensively tested. When used by a hunter who has practiced, they deliver the right sound.
- If you desire a more traditional call, construct a “**bull horn**” from **birch bark**, much the same as the Native Americans did.
- Another form of a “bull horn” is to use a large **coffee can**. Put a small hole in the center of

the bottom and soak a 24-inch rawhide string in water overnight. Feed the rawhide through the bottom of the can, securing with a knot. By pulling the string through your fingers at varying rates you can easily simulate the desired moose call.

- “Bull horn” type calls can be heard over long distances even on windy days. However, hearing a responding call on a windy day can be quite difficult.
- Another call is the **hand call**. To do this, cup both your hands together, and bring them to your mouth. You can simulate both the cow in heat call and bull grunts.

No matter which call or method you choose, it is sure to increase your odds of locating animals and increase the excitement of the hunt.

## CARE OF YOUR MOOSE

Among the big game animals, moose meat is considered the best. It is to your advantage, and it's also your responsibility as a sportsman, to care for your moose properly and to use it fully.

Assuring quality moose meat for the table begins before the hunt and continues right through the choice of cooking recipes.

**Suggested Equipment:** First-time moose hunters should be aware that field care of moose is a LOT of work. Nothing will make it easy, but certain equipment and a bit of know-how will make it much less difficult. Make sure your equipment list includes the following:

- Sharpening stone
- Black pepper – ½ pound can
- 2 or 3 large plastic bags
- Cloth wiping rags
- 1/4” to 1/2” nylon rope
- Sharp axe or hatchet
- Sharp, stout knife - at least one
- Large sheet of polyethylene
- Sturdy hand saw, preferably a boning saw
- Game bags, large quantity of cheesecloth, or several old bed sheets
- Heavy-duty pulley and/or a winch or come-along --1 ton minimum capacity

**Which Moose for You?** Moose are abundant enough that you may not want to take the first opportunity. Wait for a good shot and for the right animal. If fine eating and ease of transportation are both important to you, consider taking a young animal. Bear in mind that even a calf moose is much larger than the largest white-tailed deer you are ever likely to encounter!

Trophy moose heads are expensive to have mounted and impossible to display properly unless you have a large room with high ceilings. Don't shoot a bull with a trophy rack unless you have a genuine interest in mounting and displaying it.

**Making The Kill:** You should make every effort to kill your moose instantly. This requires use of the proper firearm and the ability to hit vital areas. To have greatest assurance of making a clean kill, only the larger cartridges are recommended.

### NOT Recommended

.243 or .244 (6mm)	.303 Savage	.38-40 Win.
.250 (.250/.3000)	.30-30 Win.	.32 Win. Spec.
.38-55 Win.	.35 Rem.	.25-06
.32 Rem.	.44 Mag.	.351 Win.
.257 Roberts	.32-40 Win.	.44-40 Win.
.30 Rem.		

### Recommended

.270 Win.	.30-06 Sprfld.	.308 Win.
.284 Win.	.444 Marlin	.280 Rem.
.30-40 Krag.	.348 Win.	.303 British
.8mm Mauser	7 x 57 mm.	.300 Sav.
.358 Win.		

As long as the bullet weight is at least 130 grains, the cartridge used is not as important as good shot placement in making a clean kill. Magnum cartridges are not needed for moose.

Moose seldom drop in their tracks when shot and may not show any indications of having been hit. After shooting, it is best to wait a few minutes before beginning the search, and then do so quietly. Pursued immediately, a wounded moose may travel a great distance before dying. Follow-up every shot and follow the moose for a distance even if you don't find blood at first.

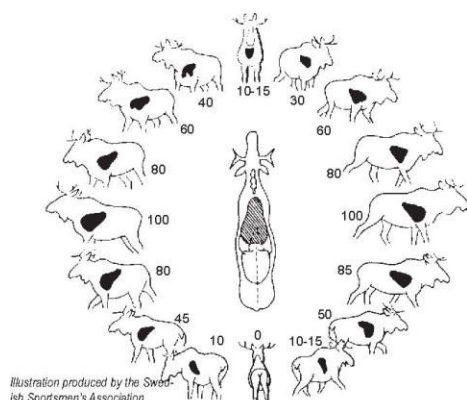


Illustration produced by the Swedish Sportsmen's Association

Proportion and percentage of the vital heart/lung area of a moose from different angles. A quick, humane kill from a well-placed shot should be every hunter's goal. Shots should not be taken at a moose that is not clearly visible or in a stance or posture that prevent proper shot placement.

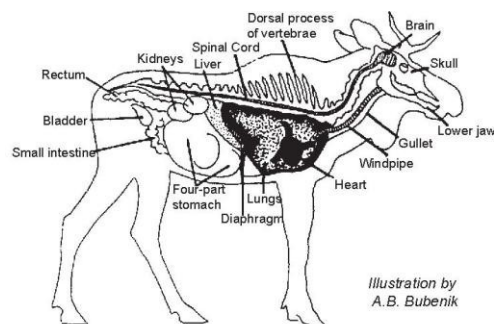


Illustration by A.B. Bubenik

Internal organs of a moose. The best shot placement is in the heart/lung area.

Crichton, V.F.J. 1997. *Hunting, Ecology and Management of the North American Moose* pages 637 & 638. Franzmann, A.W. and C.C. Swartz, editors. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington and London, 733.

**Important First Steps After The Kill:** Approach the animal to within 10 feet. Look at its eyes. If they are closed, the animal is probably still alive. If so, kill it with a shot to the base of the ear (if head is not to be mounted).

If the eyes are open and the animal is not moving, prod it with a sturdy stick to determine whether it is alive. When certain it is dead, take each leg separately and straighten it out and rotate it several times. You should do this because, even after death, nerve impulses may cause a leg to strike out suddenly, possibly injuring or even killing the unsuspecting hunter.

If your moose has been hit in the heart or lung region it will bleed internally, and eviscerating

the carcass will get rid of the blood. If the shot hit the head or neck, you should cut the main arteries and veins at the base of the neck. Caution: a nerve impulse reaction to this cutting could result in a very dangerous toss of the antlers.

Next, tag the moose with the official transportation tag portion of your moose hunting permit, following instructions on the tag. The full name and address of the person who killed the moose should be written on the transportation tag.

Now is the best time for picture taking - before you get into the dirty work.

View how to field dress and collect the ovaries here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5lp87z5Cd0&feature=youtu.be>

**Eviscerating:** It takes patience to gut out a moose properly, but it's a critical step in assuring good tasting moose meat.

Every effort must be made not to rupture the stomach or intestines. Care must be taken to avoid puncturing the bladder or spilling its contents. The bladder is located below (as you look at the animal on its back, ready for gutting) the anus and at the entrance to the pelvic girdle.

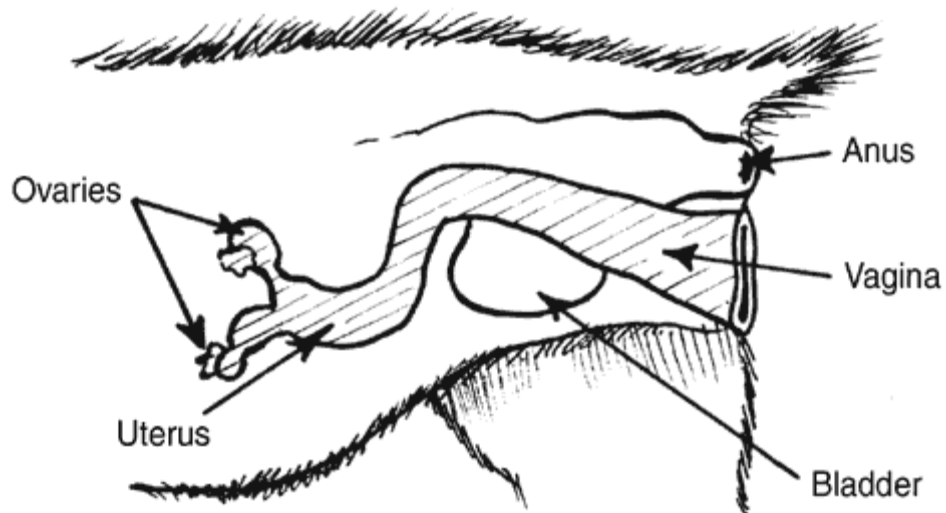
It may take two people, or a come-along, to position the moose on its back for the initial cuts. Tie each leg to a nearby sapling to hold it there.

Make the first cut through the hide near the breast, being careful not to pierce the internal organs. With your hand inside the abdominal cavity and the knife pointing outside, continue the incision to the anus. If the head is not to be mounted, continue the incision, in the opposite direction, to the base of the jaw. If you plan to mount the head, cut only to the brisket.

Open the abdomen, exposing the viscera; then using your axe, split up the chest bone to the brisket, exposing the chest cavity contents. If your incision is to the base of the jawbone, cut downward, exposing the trachea (windpipe) and esophagus (swallowing tube). Sever these at the base of the jaw, and using traction and cutting as needed, pull downward into the chest cavity. Traction may be applied by a second person or with a come-along, dissect down to the diaphragm, tie a string tightly around the esophagus to prevent contents from contaminating the meat.

If you have shot a cow moose in WMDs 1-4 or 19 during the November season you must bring the reproductive tract including both ovaries to the registration station upon presenting your moose. The reproductive tract (ovaries and uterus) can now be removed; you also have the option of waiting until the bowel has been tied. Carefully roll the internal organs to the side until you see the point where two tubes (the rectum and the vagina) exit through the pelvic bone (see illustration below). The vagina is the tube nearest the belly. Grasp this and follow it carefully forward until it forks into two tubes, which are the left and right horns of the uterus.

Once you have located the uterus, insert your fingers under it and work your hand in until the organ lies in the palm of your hand. You will notice a thin, almost transparent membrane which connects this organ to the animal's back. All that now remains is to carefully follow the horns of the uterus to the ovaries. These are bean-shaped organs one to two inches in length. They may be covered with fat so keep looking! When you find them, cut the membranes holding them in place, remove the ovaries, and place them in a plastic bag. The uterus can be removed by cutting through the vagina. The ovaries and the uterus should be kept as cool as possible.



Cut next around the anus. As soon as several inches of the lower bowel are free, tie it off with a string. Split the hips by cutting to the pelvic bone with a knife and then split the pelvic bone with an axe or knife. Free the rectum and bladder from internal attachments, taking care not to rupture or spill contents.

Next, sever away from the ribs the thin diaphragm muscle that separates the heart-lung compartment from the main digestive tract. You can now turn the moose on one side and, with careful cutting and pulling, roll the viscera out. Take out all the remaining lungs within the chest cavity, in order for moose to cool down appropriately.

Remove the head at the last vertebra. This is a good time to remove the tongue, heart and any other internal organs you intend to eat. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention advises against eating the liver and kidneys of moose because of possible contamination with the heavy metal cadmium.

Edible organs must be cooled quickly and kept cool. It is very important to trim away any shot damage. For transportation, nothing is better than a cheesecloth bag. Plastic bags can be used in transit out of the woods, but remove and store the parts in a cool place, out of the direct sun, as soon as possible.

**Parasites and Moose:** Hunters should be aware that most wild animals have parasites in their bodies, including moose. Most parasites (i.e., muscle worms) that occur in moose do not cause any recognizable disease. And while the presence of parasites may be unsightly, the majority of parasites cannot be transmitted to humans nor do they make the meat inedible. Often the whitish cysts of muscle tapeworm (*Taenia krabbei*) are found when butchering the moose; again there is no cause for alarm and it does not affect the meat.

### ***Echinococcus granulosus* – Tape Worm - in Maine Moose**

Over the last three years Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been collaborating with the University of Maine Animal Health Lab in examining the presence of lungworms (*Dictyocaulus* spp.) in moose. Lungworms have been noted in moose that have been found dead in late winter with heavy winter tick loads and the combination of both parasites has been implicated as a cause of calf mortality.

This past fall, students once again increased sampling intensity of moose lungs from harvested animals. This led to the University of Maine-Animal Health Lab, finding *Echinococcus granulosus* (E.G.) cysts in some moose lungs. EG is a very small tapeworm that has a two part lifecycle; one in canids (coyotes/foxes/domestic dogs) and the second in moose. There are several known genotypes of this tapeworm, and genetic testing of the Maine tapeworms found that this EG is the northern, or least pathogenic, form. Although *Echinococcus granulosus* can infect humans, the form that is known to do so most often is the sheep-dog genotype. Finding the northern, wild-type form of EG in moose in Maine suggests that likely wild canids in Maine are infected and possibly domestic dogs are infected as well, and that fact may allow for human exposure to this parasite. It is also very likely that we have coexisted with these tapeworms for years with no apparent problems having not actively looked for them prior to this work.

The adult tapeworm lives in the intestines of the canid host, while the larval form lives in the lungs or liver of an infected moose. Humans may become infected by eggs of the parasite, which can be picked up by contact with canid feces.

In conjunction with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and University of Maine Animal Health Lab/Cooperative extension, we recommend the following:

- Hunters avoid harvesting sick or injured animals.
- Hunters and trappers should always wear rubber or latex gloves when field dressing animals.
- Wild game meat should be thoroughly cooked.
- People should avoid contact with dead wild animals
- People should avoid contact with carnivore feces
- After consultation with your veterinarian, regularly deworm pets with a product that works on tapeworms
- Do not let domestic pets eat the organs from either hunter-harvested animals or from "roadkill" animals
- Practice good personal hygiene-wash hands and contaminated clothes, especially after handling animals or anything that could be contaminated with feces

**Skinning:** There are two schools of thought on skinning moose. Some say the hide should be left on to keep the meat clean, deter flies, and prevent drying out. Loops cut into the hide of a quartered moose also provide convenient "handles." Others say that the quicker cooling of the meat with the hide off offsets the advantages of leaving the hide on. If you plan to have your moose butchered by a professional, contact him in advance to see what he prefers. Some want the hide on, others prefer it off.

**Moose meat can spoil in the hams and shoulders within a few hours.** If you anticipate any delay in getting the moose into a cooler, you should at least quarter it to allow the heavier portions to cool more quickly. Take every precaution to keep your moose meat free of dirt, debris and, especially, hair and blood.

Skinning the moose is easier if you re-position it on its back and tie the legs again. To remove the hide, cut it down the inside of each leg to the cut made to remove the viscera. Much of the hide can be pulled loose; use your knife to free it when it sticks. Skin out the legs and down both sides as far as you can. Then lay the skin flat and roll the moose onto one side and skin down and along the back. Then roll it over and finish skinning the other side.

**Quartering:** Depending on the animal's size, your strength, and the distance involved, you will want to cut your moose into as many as ten portions, including the head and hide. Evidence of



gender must remain attached to at least one part of the dressed animal, if it is dismembered and transported in several pieces. **All edible meat and evidence of gender must be presented for registration, but it is much easier to leave the viscera, lower legs, rib cage, head, and hide in the woods.** Any moose parts that are not presented for registration **may not** be placed where they are visible to a person traveling on a public or private way.

A bone saw will make the quartering job much easier. An axe will work if used carefully. A poly sheet will help keep the quartered pieces clean.

To remove the front shoulders and hindquarters, slice through the tendons and muscle tissue across the shoulder blades and thighs and then cut through the joint in the shoulders and hips.

Protect the meat from flies with game bags, cheesecloth, old sheets, and/or a liberal application of black pepper. If at all possible, hang the meat in the shade to cool. Don't put the meat in plastic bags or wrap it in blankets, tarps, or plastic. Keep it as dry as possible, as moisture increases the chance of spoilage. Don't wash the meat unless you have a way to dry it. Trim away any shot- damaged meat.

**Getting The Moose Out of The Woods:** Unless you can drive to the kill site or can find someone with a skidder, getting the moose out of the woods will be your most difficult task, but it will be much easier if the moose is quartered. If you do get it out intact and/or with the hide on, try to get it hung in a cool place, preferably a meat cooler, as soon as possible.

**Vehicle Transportation:** When transporting a moose, your main concerns should be keeping the meat cool and protecting it from dirt and exhaust fumes. Although the law requires that the moose be open to view until after it is registered, the whole animal need not be displayed, only some prominent portion (leg, head, antler, etc.) should be visible.

Snowmobile trailers are handy for transporting moose, but if you use one be sure to protect the moose from dirt thrown up by the tow-vehicle tires. This is especially important if you will be traveling a long distance on unpaved logging roads; dust and mud can make a mess of your moose.

Some hunters rig special insulated boxes in the back of pickup trucks or on snowmobile trailers. Cooled with dry ice, these are great for transporting meat long distances in warm weather. As an alternative, you can pack ice (bagged or in plastic gallon milk jugs) or dry ice in the body cavity or around the quartered pieces. Don't allow water from the melting ice to contact the meat. Don't put dry ice in direct contact with the meat; use several layers of newspaper to keep the dry ice and the meat apart.

If you can't provide any other kind of cooling, at least allow air to circulate around each piece of meat. A rack of tree limbs can be used to elevate the meat off warm surfaces and separate the pieces on top of each other. However, it is better to have them in one layer with good air circulation above and below. Use cheesecloth or sheets to protect open meat from flies and road dirt. Don't pile gear on the moose, and take particular care to avoid contamination with gasoline from ATVs and spare gas cans.

If you have a long distance to travel and the weather is warm, don't risk losing all you have invested in your moose meat by taking it directly home. After registering your moose, take it directly to the nearest facility with a large cooler (a custom meat cutter, a common carrier with

refrigerated trucks, a supermarket, etc.) where it can be hung and cooled, butchered, frozen, or properly packed in ice for the trip home. If you don't do this, at least think about traveling at night.

**Aging:** Young moose need no aging, but older moose should be aged. Aging time varies according to the temperature and the animal's size. The ideal temperature is just a few degrees above freezing. Temperatures in the 40s will shorten the aging period to a few days. The temperature must never exceed 50. If the hide is off, reduce aging time to prevent drying out; cheesecloth covering will help prevent drying and deter flies. Black pepper may also be needed for the latter. Meat must be aged before freezing, never after. There is no need to age portions to be processed into ground or stewing meats.

**Butchering:** If you don't have the time, equipment, and know-how to process your own moose, have it processed at a commercial facility. A list of custom cutters who will process moose can be found at the IFW Moose Hunting information website.  
[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses\\_permits/lotteries/moose/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses_permits/lotteries/moose/index.htm)

**Freezing:** Poor freezing methods can ruin your moose meat just as surely as improper field care. The most common problems are "freezer burn," unsuitable or defective wrapping paper, freezing too large a quantity at one time, and an inadequate or malfunctioning freezer.

Always use special freezer paper. Aluminum or polyethylene envelopes are also recommended. Quick and even freezing is required. Even a large home freezer cannot properly handle more than 100 pounds of meat at the same time - half that amount in an 18 cubic foot freezer.

**Cooking Moose Meat:** Lacking recipes specifically for moose, you can use your favorite venison recipes with good results.

**Disposal of Unwanted Parts:** Dispose of any waste from your moose by deep burial. Disposal of dead animals or animal parts is illegal on dumps and land fills.

**Moose Trophy Care:** Shoot a trophy-sized bull only if you intend to make good use of it. Proper care of trophy heads is extremely important. If you plan on having a moose head mounted, get specific instructions on skinning and care from your taxidermist **before** you go hunting. A less expensive alternative to a full head mount is to mount just the antlers and the skullcap.

**Full Head Mount:** If you want a head mount, avoid shooting your moose in the head, and don't cut its throat. When field dressing, try to get the animal's head uphill to prevent any blood or body fluids from getting on the head or cape. Field dress the moose in the normal manner except do not cut any further up the under side than between the front legs. The windpipe and any other material can be removed after the animal has been caped out.

If the weather is warm, and you plan to have a head mount or a "fur on" rug made from the hide, you must remove the skin, salt the flesh side thoroughly, and roll up the hide, flesh side in. Keep it in a cool place (**never** in a plastic bag) and get it to your taxidermist as soon as possible. Delay may cause "slipping," a condition in which the hair falls off the hide after the tanning process, ruining it for its intended use.

To skin for a head and shoulder mount, cut in a straight line down the back of the neck, stopping between the shoulder blades, and cut skin off behind the front legs. An alternative is to bring the whole skin, with head attached, to the taxidermist. He will want the measurements, and the

skinning is included in the mounting charge.

**Hide Care:** Remove all flesh and fat, and then salt the flesh side well. Moose hides spoil very rapidly in warm weather. Take the hide to a taxidermist within 24 hours after skinning.

Fine table salt is best for use on hides. Capes will take about 30 pounds of salt. Flat skins will take 50 to 80 pounds. As a guide, figure on using half the weight of the skin in salt. About 24 hours after application, the salt will be wet and will have lost its efficiency - shake it off and re-salt.

Transport the hide rolled up, **flesh side out**.

**Other Moose Trophies:** Moose hooves and legs can be used for making gun racks. The bones from the dewclaws make interesting letter openers which can be prepared simply by cutting the bone out, removing the meat, and drying. "Fur off" moose hide can be tanned like buckskin and used to make gloves or other items.

## HOW MUCH DID MY MOOSE WEIGH? HOW MUCH MEAT WILL I GET?

Many successful moose hunters are interested in knowing how much their moose weighed alive and how much edible meat they might expect it to yield. Weighing a moose after it is brought out of the woods (without heart, liver and other edible organs, and without lungs and other viscera) will give you the **dressed weight**. Although there are a number of variables (sex, age, blood loss and dehydration, etc.) that may affect weight, a reasonable estimate of a moose's **live weight** may be obtained by adding 30 percent to its dressed weight.

How much meat can you expect from your moose? There are even more important variables in making this estimation, but, as a very rough guide you can figure that one-half of the dressed weight of your moose is edible — potentially. The figures that follow represent an accurate accounting of what one pair of hunters obtained from their moose, which weighed approximately 850 pounds field dressed.

Steak of various cuts .....	118 lbs	Ribs (to barbecue) .....	24 lbs
Stew meat .....	88 lbs	Roasts .....	11 lbs
Moose-burg (includes 21 pounds of beef and pork fat ground in).....			196 lbs
Heart, liver, kidneys, tongue (estimated weight) .....			18 lbs

**Total edible meat from 850 lb bull moose. .... 455 lbs**

Important factors which affected the yield of meat from this particular moose were:

1. Almost no meat was lost from bullet damage.
2. There was no loss from spoilage or dirty meat.
3. Experienced butchers cut-up the moose, so there was almost no waste.
4. The amounts listed are pure meat, with no fat or bone except for the ribs and 21 pounds of fat ground into moose burger.

Obviously, these and other conditions can have considerable effect on the percentage of meat that can be taken from a particular carcass. A cow moose, or a young moose, for instance, might not yield as much meat per pound of field dressed weight as a mature bull. Likewise, a number of bullet holes, spoilage, and hasty or careless butchering could result in a lower yield. Conversely, cutting steaks or roasts in such a way as to include bone (as is done with beef) would increase

the total weight going into the freezer.

## **A CAUTION ON LIVER AND KIDNEY CONSUMPTION**

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that the liver and kidneys of moose not be eaten because of possible contamination with the heavy metal cadmium. Several states, Canadian provinces and Scandinavian countries have issued similar warnings. While cadmium may accumulate in the liver and kidneys, there is no known health risk from eating the meat of moose or deer.

Air pollution from copper and nickel industries and from the burning of fossil fuels accounts for much of the cadmium deposited in eastern North America. Cadmium is ingested by moose with their food. Maine health officials recommend that deer liver consumption be limited to 0.8 pounds in one sitting and 1 to 1 1/3 pounds per week. Human symptoms of acute cadmium poisoning include severe nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramps and salivation.

## **WHEN A MOOSE YIELDS MORE MEAT THAN YOU WILL EAT...**

Consider donating to the Hunters for the Hungry, a program that provides low-fat moose, bear, and deer meat to food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Hunters do not pay to have donated meat processed. If you would like to donate all or part of your moose, or have other game meat less than a year old that you would like to donate to make room for your moose, please call 1-888-4DEERME (1-888-433-3763).



## **PHONE NUMBERS YOU MAY NEED**

Ashland .....	(207) 435-3231	State Police-Orono .....	1-800-432-7381
Bangor .....	(207) 941-4440	State Police-Houlton.....	1-800-924-2261
Enfield .....	(207) 732-4132	North Maine Woods.....	(207) 435-6213
Gray .....	(207) 657-2345	Penobscot Nation.....	(207) 817-7331
Greenville .....	(207) 695-3756	ME Forest Service-Island Falls .....	(207) 463-2214
Jonesboro .....	(207) 434-5927	ME Forest Service-Greenville .....	(207) 695-3721
Sidney .....	(207) 547-5300	ME Forest Service-Old Town .....	(207) 827-2079
Strong .....	(207) 778-3324	Operation Game Thief.....	1-800-253-7887

## LET SOMEONE KNOW WHERE YOU WILL BE STAYING

Make sure someone knows exactly where you will be staying on your moose hunt. Give them the number of the nearest Fish and Wildlife Department office. This precaution will simplify locating you, should that become necessary.

## RECORD MOOSE ANTLERS

Are your moose antlers a new Maine moose record? Does it qualify as a trophy antlered bull moose according to the Maine Antler and Skull Trophy Club (MASTC)?

A trophy moose will have antlers over four feet wide, with sixteen or more points on large palms. The scoring system measures bone mass, so the most important single factor is large, massive palms.

If you take a trophy antlered moose, let the antlers and the cleaned skull cap dry for 60 days. Do not separate antlers from the skullcap or break the upper skull. This will change the true spread measurement and will disqualify the antlers from official registration.

Measuring should be done as soon as possible after the 60-day drying period for the highest possible score. Large moose antlers can shrink up to four inches in spread in three months. For further information, or for a measuring appointment, contact one of the scorers listed below.

**President's Note:** MASTC accepts score charts for trophies harvested in Maine from any certified Boone & Crockett Club (B&C) or Pope & Young Club (P&Y) scorer. B&C and P&Y scorers must include their I.D. number on the score chart.

Anyone interested in becoming an Official MASTC Scorer contact MASTC President Al Wentworth (564-7614) for a New Scorer Application.

### Official MASTC Scorers List

Name	Town	Phone #
<u>Northern Maine</u>		
Hal Blood	Jackman	668-4169
Lloyd Bryant	Benedicta	622-8776
Chris Drew	Mt Chase	528-2141
Gerlad Laffey	Garland	299-7685
Tad Proudlove	Enfield	732-3694
John Robertson	Portage Lake	435-6211
Danny Soucy	Madawaska	728-7837
Ryan Stevens	Lincoln	837-2732
Al Wentworth	Dover-Foxcroft	564-7614

Eastern Maine

Roger Avery	Milford	827-8931
Robin Avery	Orono	827-2364
Chris Lynch	Veazie	942-0468
Wayne Moffett	Etna	269-4731
Toby Montgomery	Frankfort	223-5934
Paul Roberts	Carmel	433-7882
Michael Smith	Thomaston	354-0219
Edward J. Wancus	Prospect	567-3101
Larry Voisine	Ellsworth	479-5520

Central Maine

Randy Brooks	Durham	333-1908
Jeff Clifford	Edgecomb	882-6119
Al Corson	Skowhegan	474-5593
David Cote	Vassalboro	620-0585
Harry Doughty	Pittston	582-0917
Geri Fraser	E. Millinocket	746-3938
Jim Geib	Solon	643-2334
James Martin	Winthrop	377-2887
Sonny Moore	Winthrop	395-4358
Rob Prescott	Augusta	622-8776
Tony Tuttle	Albion	437-4165
Barry Welch	Newport	446-5035

Western Maine

Jean Arsenault	Mexico	364-1446
Thomas Berube	Poland	998-2974
Chuck Cote	Eustis	246-7543
Albert Ladd	Byron	364-7470
John McCluskey	Kingfield	265-2075
Gerald Therrien	Leeds	754-5971

Southern Maine

Richard Arsenault	Buxton	727-3880
David Ganter	Biddeford	284-6131
Erik Frigon	Pownal	688-4524
Galen (Chip) Humphrey	Wells	646-8747
Harvey Libby	East Waterboro	247-3889
Tom McElwain	Parsonsfield	793-8091
Robert Provencher	Freeport	865-2224

Outside Maine



Carl Leiser	Wallingford, CT	203-265-0250
Richard Christoforo	Revere, MA	781-289-7233
Roscoe Blaisdell	Raymond, NH	603-895-9947
Brian Emerson	Groveton, NH	603-636-1246
Reggie Moore	NH	603-352-7348
Paul Clarke	Camden, NY	315-335-7267
Paul Daniels	Bath, NY	607-776-3073
Bob Eisele	Leesburg, NJ	856-785-1505
Howard Gibbs	Shippensburg, PA	717-530-0496
Ron Boucher	Wallingford, VT	802-446-2216
Rod Goyette	Barre, VT	802-476-4632
Pete Lajoie	Shrewsbury, VT	802-492-3671
Mike Renaud	Winooski, VT	802-655-2319
Curtis Smiley	Farfax, VT	802-849-2986
Jeff Thurston	Northfield, VT	802-485-7240

## **NONIMMIGRANT ALIENS HUNTING IN MAINE**

An approved ATF form 6NIA will serve as the temporary firearms import permit that nonimmigrant alien presents to the U.S. Customs Service at the time he or she enters the United States. An approved permit is valid for one year, as long as the nonimmigrant alien has documentation demonstrating he or she will fall within an exception to the general prohibition on nonimmigrant aliens possessing firearms and ammunition (either a valid State hunting license or an invitation/registration to attend future qualifying competitive target shooting event or sports or hunting trade show.)

A nonimmigrant alien who already has an approved import permit on the old ATF Form 6 may continue to use the permit until it expires (as long as he or she has documentation demonstrating that he or she fall within an exception to the general prohibition on nonimmigrant aliens possessing firearms and ammunition.)

Nonimmigrant aliens planning to temporarily enter the United States with a firearm or ammunition for reasons other than hunting or other lawful sporting purposes (or repair) do not need an ATF Form 6NIA import permit. However, they do need to fall within an exception to the general prohibition on nonimmigrant aliens possessing firearms and ammunition in the United States.

Moreover, they may need a DSP-61 (Temporary Import License) from the Department of State. If a nonimmigrant alien has questions about whether a DSP-61 is needed, he or she should contact the U.S. Department of State, Office of Defense Trade Controls, at 202-663-2714.

Nonimmigrant aliens with questions about ATF Form 6NIA may call ATF's Firearms and Explosives Import Branch at 202-927-8320. The ATF web site [atf.gov](http://atf.gov) has frequently asked questions that provide useful information regarding the form.

## CUSTOMS

Hunters who will be entering a moose hunting district via Canada should be aware of Customs hours and regulations. You must consider the American Customs going into Maine and the Canadian Customs when entering Canada.

Due to changes related to Homeland Security along the Maine-Quebec Border, the schedules of operations for the following checkpoints are subject to change at any time.

**Estcourt:** Open Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**St. Pamphile:** Open Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**St. Juste:** Open Monday through Thursday 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

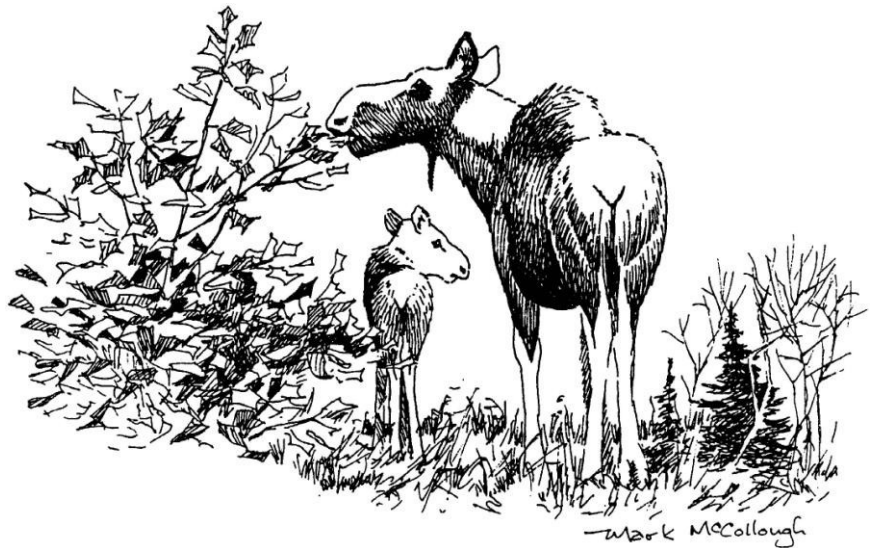
**St. Aurelie:** Open Monday through Thursday 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Hunters planning to use one of these border crossings are advised to call U.S. Customs in Jackman (207-668-3711) to assure that the crossing will be open.** There are heavy fines for improper border crossing.

### DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE HANDGUNS INTO CANADA

Although you are not normally required to stop at American Customs on leaving the U.S., you should do so to register your rifles so there will be no problem upon re-entry.

Prior to entry into Canada with hunting firearms, you will be required to stop at Canada Customs to declare and register all hunting rifles and shotguns. There is a fee to register firearms. For more information, please call Canada Customs at 418-597-3395.



Moose legally shot in Maine can be transported into Canada and back into Maine with proper Customs clearance.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF MOOSE and MOOSE HUNTING IN MAINE

No animal is more symbolic of Maine's northern forests than the moose, as officially attested by its adoption as Maine's state animal and its appearance on the state's seal. According to the writings of early explorers, moose were plentiful in New England during the 1600s; however, statewide populations had declined to a couple thousand by the early 1900s. Several factors

are believed to have contributed to the decline, including brain worm, unrestricted hunting (including market hunting), and clearing of forests for farmland. Concerns about a declining moose population in Maine in the early 1900s led to increasing restrictions on hunting them until, in 1935 legal moose hunting ended.

Protection from excessive hunting, and improving habitat conditions, allowed the moose population to increase dramatically. Reverting farmland increased the amount of forested habitat available to moose in southern and central Maine. In northern Maine, changes in forest practices that included a greater amount of clear cutting provided moose with an abundant food source as cutover areas regenerated. Today, moose are distributed statewide but are most abundant in northern, western, and eastern counties where climate and habitat conditions are most favorable for them.

As the numbers of moose increased, interest in moose viewing and restoring moose hunting also increased. In 1980, following 45 years of no legal moose hunting, Maine's moose herd had increased to the point where the Maine Legislature authorized restoration of a very conservative and limited open season. It allowed the Department to issue up to 700 permits to resident hunters and their subpermittees to hunt moose north of the Canadian Pacific Railroad tracks during the last week of September. The law made no provision to distribute hunting pressure, and hunters concentrated east of Moosehead Lake, a popular area for moose watching. The harvest was high in this area and caused public concern.

Following the 1980 moose season, Maine legislators overwhelmingly passed a law providing for annual moose seasons beginning in 1982 in accordance with rather specific requirements and a means of distributing hunting pressure by assigning hunters to zones. The Legislature established the number of permits that could be issued and the length of the season. Timing of the season and number of hunting districts was left to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish. Over the years, permit numbers have gradually increased and the legal hunting area has expanded. Presently, more than 2,500 permits are issued over 24 of Maine's 29 Wildlife Management Districts.

In 1999, for the first time in Maine history, the legislature granted all responsibility for administering the moose hunt in the year 2001 and beyond to the DIF&W. In addition, the Department convened a public working group to develop goals and objectives that guided moose management in Maine for the next fifteen years.

## **SOMEONE'S STEALING MAINE'S WILDLIFE**

### **WE PAY CASH**

**For information on poachers and  
private property abuse**



**1-800-ALERT US  
1-800-253-7887**

US Cellular & Maine Wireless dial  
#GW  
Unicel dial \*GW

Beginning in 2001, the moose season featured some changes in the framework, to spread hunters out more than in past seasons. These changes include a two-week split season, an expansion of hunting into downeast portions of the state, and permits allocated by wildlife management districts (rather than large zones) to tailor moose populations, hunting opportunities, and viewing opportunities specifically the way Maine's citizens want in different parts of the State.

In 2003, Wildlife Management District 17 was open to moose hunting for the first time in modern moose hunting history. Four additional Wildlife Management Districts in southern Maine (WMDs 15, 16, 23, and 26) were opened to moose hunting in 2008 to provide additional hunting opportunity and to address publicly derived goals to reduce the moose population because of highway safety concerns. Drawing upon the Department's moose management system, the recommendations of a Big Game Public Working Group, public comment received at several informational meetings and a public hearing, the support of the Farm Bureau Association of Maine, the Small Woodland Owners of Maine, and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, as well as the input of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife staff, the Department allocated sufficient permits to allow a slow to moderate decrease in moose numbers, while eliminating or greatly reducing conflicts between moose hunters, landowners, and the general public. Unlike the "traditional" moose hunt, the southern Maine hunt occurs in conjunction with the firearms season on deer in November. The Department will apply the information and experience gained from the moose hunt in southern Maine to any future openings that may be considered for the remaining WMDs currently closed to moose hunting.

In 2009 a Legislative Resolve, LD 929 directed IFW to change the management strategy for WMD 2 from a Recreational Zone to a Compromise Zone resulting in increased permit allocations to reduce moose numbers.

## **MAINE MOOSE HUNTERS CLUB**

Membership in the Maine Moose Hunter's Club is open to all hunters who legally take a moose in Maine. The club is sponsored by:

The Maine Sportsman  
183 State Street, Suite 201  
Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 622-4242

### **Moose Hunter's Club Rules:**

1. Open to anyone, resident and nonresident, holding a Maine Moose Hunting Permit.
2. Only the person who kills and registers a moose, whether the permit holder or subpermittee, is eligible for the club.
3. Tagging station attendants, Maine game wardens, or wildlife biologists can certify weight. If possible, please have witnesses also.
4. There is no minimum weight requirement.
5. Cut out and mail this application or an application card available at registration stations along with \$5.00 to cover the cost of a jacket patch to the Maine Sportsman, 183 State Street, Suite 201, Augusta, ME 04330.

6. Only one jacket patch issued per year.

<b>APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	
<b>MAINE MOOSE HUNTERS CLUB</b>	
An Association of Sportsmen Who Have Taken Moose in Maine	
Name_____	
Mailing Address_____	Zip_____
Tel. #_____Town Shot In_____	
Caliber Rifle_____Dressed Weight (without heart or liver)_____	
Registration Seal Number (must have)_____Date Killed_____	
Maximum Spread of Rack_____Number of Points_____	
Certified By_____Address_____	
<b>Mail this application and \$5.00 to:</b>	
The Maine Sportsman, 183 State Street, Suite 101, Augusta, ME 04330	

## SPRUCE GROUSE AND RUFFED GROUSE IDENTIFICATION

Can you distinguish between the legally hunted ruffed grouse (partridge) and the spruce grouse, for which there is no open season?

### **Spruce Grouse:**

#### **Behavior**

- Generally act very tame; may allow a hunter or a slow moving vehicle to approach to within a few feet.
- Will often “crouch” low to the ground when approached.
- When finally ready to move, Spruce Grouse will often run only a short distance, or fly only to a nearby tree.

#### **Physical Characteristics**

- Tail feathers have red-brown tips and lack the broad black band of the ruffed grouse.
- Male spruce grouse are slate gray and black above (considerably darker than ruffed grouse), with a characteristic unfeathered red patch of skin above the eye.
- Female spruce grouse are gray and brown above and white and brown below; under certain light conditions, they may look similar to the red phase of ruffed grouse.

### **Ruffed Grouse:**

#### **Behavior**

- When approached by someone on foot or in a vehicle, frequently “perk” head up like a chicken.
- Commonly flush and take flight when disturbed.
- May also lower head, with neck extended, and run for cover.

#### **Physical Characteristics** (spruce grouse lack all of these features)

- Conspicuous, broad black band on the tail.
- Black ruff feathers on sides of neck.
- Small feathers pointing up from top of head.

Spruce and ruffed grouse can and do occur in the same areas of Maine. In certain light conditions, they may look similar. Nearly half a million ruffed grouse are harvested here annually. Although the Fish and Wildlife Department does not have a population estimate for spruce grouse, we do know that they are rare and far less numerous than ruffed grouse.

**Currently there is NO OPEN SEASON on spruce grouse in Maine. As in any hunting situation, it is imperative that the hunter be certain of his/her target before discharging a firearm.**



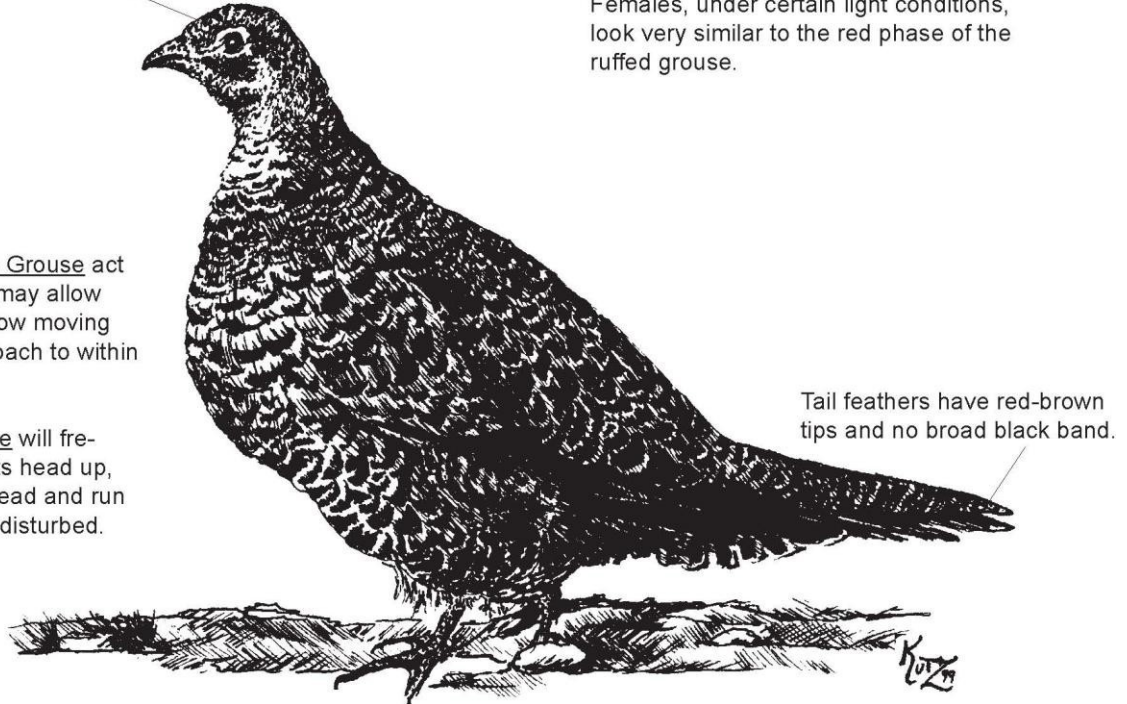
## SPRUCE GROUSE

Males will often have an unfeathered red patch of skin above the eye.

Females, under certain light conditions, look very similar to the red phase of the ruffed grouse.

**NOTE:** Spruce Grouse act very tame and may allow a hunter or a slow moving vehicle to approach to within a few feet.

A Ruffed Grouse will frequently "perk" its head up, then lower its head and run for cover when disturbed.



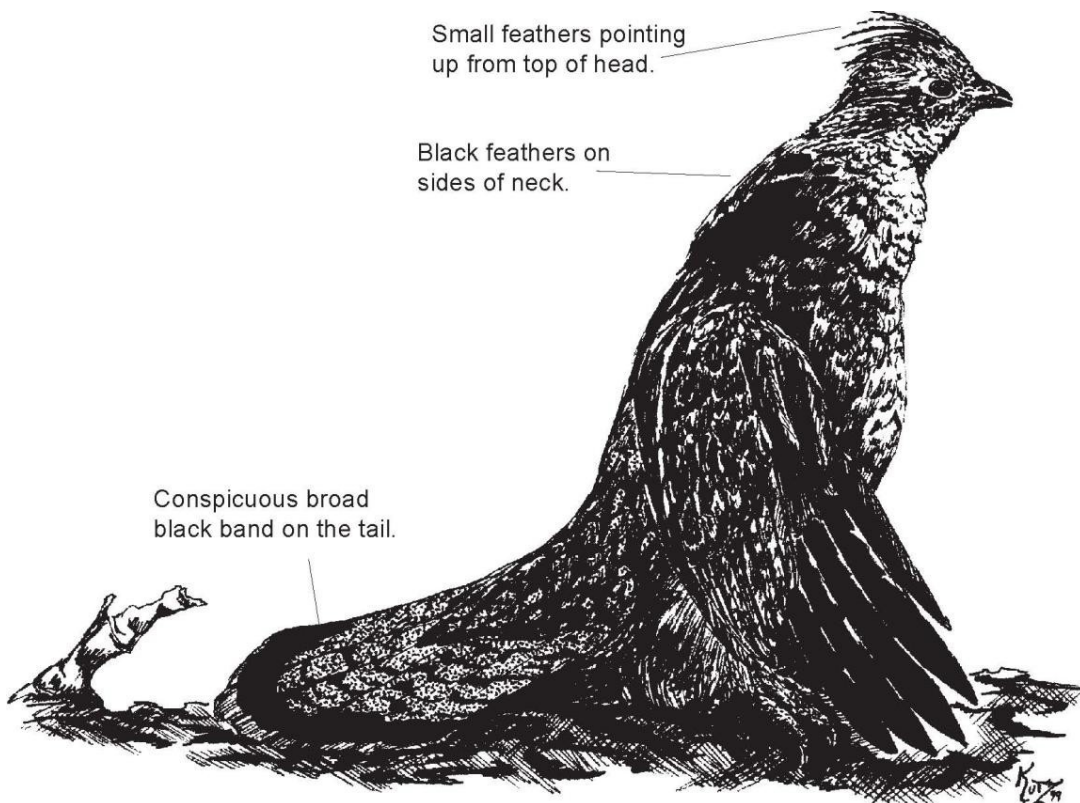
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## RUFFED GROUSE

Small feathers pointing up from top of head.

Black feathers on sides of neck.

Conspicuous broad black band on the tail.



# MOOSE HUNTING NOTES